

Is it Autism?

Professional and personal perspectives

Krestin J. Radonovich, Ph.D.

University of Florida

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

kradonov@ufl.edu

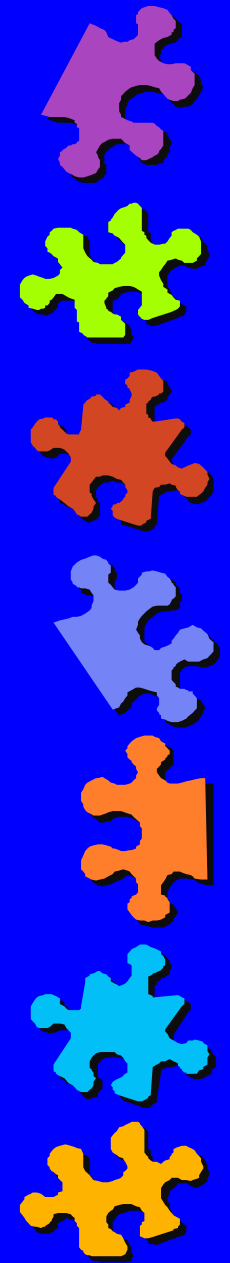


Outline

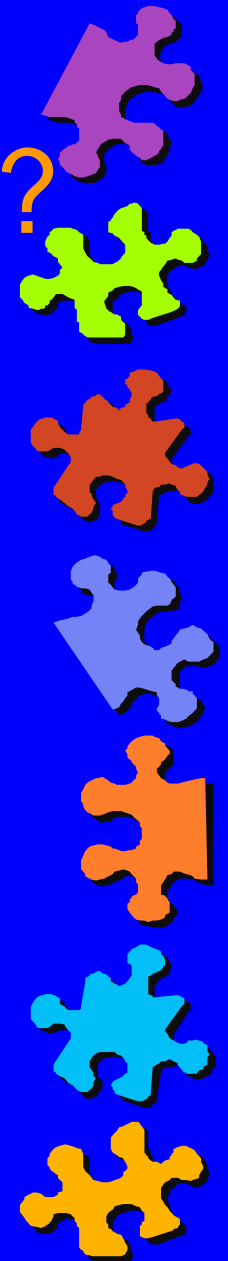


- What does autism look like?
- What are some concerning things we can look for?
- Where should we go for help?

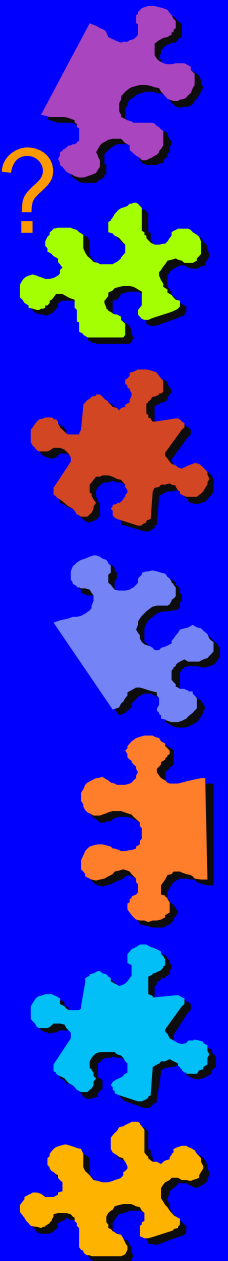
So, what is autism?



What does autism look like?



What does autism look like?



So, what is autism?

- “autism” first used by Eugen Bleuler (1911)
- First description of the disorder by Leo Kanner at Johns Hopkins Hospital (1943)
 - Inborn autistic disturbances of affective contact. *Nervous Child*, Vol. 2, pp 217-250.
- DSM (1952) schizophrenic reaction, childhood type
- DSM-III (1980) infantile autism
- DSM-IV (1994) pervasive developmental disorders

Definitions of Autism

- APA Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 4th Edition (DSM-IV, 1994)
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorders
 - Rhett Syndrome
 - Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
 - Autistic Disorder
 - Asperger Disorder
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (PDD,NOS)

Autism
Spectrum
Disorder

DSM-IV Diagnosis

1) Qualitative impairment in social interaction

- Marked impairment in nonverbal behaviors
 - Eye gaze, facial expression, body posture, gestures
- Failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level
- Lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment
 - Lack of showing, bringing, or pointing out objects of interest
- Lack of social or emotional reciprocity

DSM-IV Diagnosis

2) Qualitative impairments in communication

- Delay in, or total lack of, the development of spoken language
 - Not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through alternative modes of communication such as gesture or mime
- Marked impairment in the ability to initiate or sustain a conversation
- Stereotyped and repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language
- Lack of varied, spontaneous make-believe play or social imitative play appropriate to developmental level

DSM-IV Diagnosis

- 3) Restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities
- Preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal either in intensity or focus
 - Apparently inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals
 - Stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms
 - Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects

DSM-IV Diagnosis

- Impairment in all 3 areas
 - Social + Communication + Restricted, repetitive behavior
 - = **AUTISTIC DISORDER**
- Impairment in 2 areas only
 - Social + Restricted, repetitive behavior (no comm. problem)
 - = **ASPERGER DISORDER**
- A little of everything,
 - but not enough to meet autistic disorder or Asperger disorder
 - = **PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (PDD,NOS)**

Many other terms are used

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
 - In Florida, ASD is an educational classification
 - Rule 6A-6.03023, FAC. - (ASD)
 - Was previously “autism”
- High functioning autism (HFA)
- Mild, moderate, severe autism

Coexisting Conditions

- Cognitive
 - ~75% function at mental retardation level
- Motor
 - Many are described as clumsy
- Sensory
 - Hyposensitivity
 - Hypersensitivity
 - Food aversions
- Behavior
 - Hyperactivity
 - Aggression
 - Self Injurious Behavior (SIB)

Early Red Flags

- Lack of anticipatory posturing
- Babies who are “too good”
- Eye contact – initiating vs. tolerating
- Response to name
- Lack of facial expressions
- No babbling by 9 months
- Lack of back and forth babbling/pre-communication
- Lack of gestures
- Babies not follow parents’ pointing by 10-12 months
- Child not pointing to objects
- Echolalia – immediate and delayed

Early Autistic Symptoms

- Social-communication
 - Gaze – “eye contact”
 - Joint visual attention / 3-point gaze
 - Pointing / Gestures

Early Autistic Symptoms

- Restricted, repetitive behaviors
 - Repetitive motor behaviors
 - Stereotypies
 - Self-injurious behavior
 - Restricted cognitive behaviors
 - Circumscribed interests
 - Insistence on sameness

More information

- Websites
 - First Signs Guidelines
 - www.firstsigns.org
 - First Words Project, FSU CARD
 - <http://firstwords.fsu.edu>
 - AAP website www.aap.org
 - “Is Your One-Year-Old Communicating with you?”
 - “Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder”

Autism Speaks Websites

Video Glossary -

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/video/glossary.php>

100 Day Kit -

http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/100_day_kit.php

We suspect autism, now what?

Professionals who can help

- Physician
 - Pediatrician
 - Developmental Pediatrician
 - Neurologist
- Clinical Psychologist
 - Neuropsychologist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Local CARD office

New AAP guidelines

(Johnson, Myers, & CCD, 2007)

- In 2007, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended routine screening of all infants for ASD as part of 18-month and 24-month well-baby examinations
- If ASD is suspected, then:
 - 1) referral to an autism diagnostic clinic for a definitive evaluation
 - 2) prescription for an early intervention program
 - 3) referral to an audiologist to rule out hearing problems

Screening Tools

- Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales Developmental Profile (CSBS-DP) Checklist
 - 6-24 months of age
 - available in English, Spanish, Slovenian, Chinese, and German
 - www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/wetherby-csbsdp/CSBSDP_Checklist.pdf

CSBS DP Cuestionario del bebé y niño pequeño

Nombre del niño/a niño/a:

Escriba su nombre/a:

Escriba su mes/año de nacimiento:

(Pase página)

Usando post:

Instrucción

Antes de dar

debe leer las

instrucciones

hacer una

copie para

usarla con el

Emoción

1. (Puede

2. Cuando

3. (Siente

4. Si usted

Comunicación

1. (Puede

2. Cuando

3. (Siente

4. Si usted

5. (Hace si

6. (Trae o

7. (Pasa o

Gestos

1. (Puede

2. Cuando

3. (Siente

4. Si usted

5. (Hace si

6. (Trae o

7. (Pasa o

8. (Hace si

9. (Trae o

10. (Pasa o

11. (Hace si

12. (Trae o

13. (Pasa o

14. (Hace si

15. (Trae o

16. (Pasa o

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35. (Hace si

36. (Trae o

37. (Pasa o

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40. (Pasa o

41. (Hace si

42. (Trae o

43. (Pasa o

44. (Hace si

45. (Trae o

CSBS DP Infant-Toddler Checklist

Child's name:

Date of birth:

Date filled out:

Was born premature?

If yes, how many weeks premature?

Filled out by:

Relationship to child:

Instructions for caregivers: This Checklist is designed to identify different aspects of development in infants and toddlers. Many behaviors that develop before children talk may indicate whether or not a child will have difficulty learning to talk. This Checklist should be completed by a caregiver who has been a parent or caregiver for at least 6 and 24 months of age to determine whether a referral for an evaluation is needed. The caregiver may be either a parent or another person who nurtures the child daily. Please check all the choices that best describe your child's behavior. If you are not sure, please choose the closest response based on your experience. Children at your child's age are not necessarily expected to use all the behaviors listed.

Emotion and Eye Gaze

1. Do you know when your child is happy and when your child is upset? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
2. When your child plays with toys, does he/she look at you to see if you are watching? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
3. Does your child smile or laugh while looking at you? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
4. When you look at and point to a toy across the room, does your child look at it? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often

Communication

5. Does your child let you know that he/she needs help or wants an object out of reach? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
6. When you are not paying attention to your child, does he/she try to get your attention? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
7. Does your child do things just to get you to laugh? ☐ Not Yet ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
8. Does your child try to get you to

Screening Tools

- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
 - At least 18 mos old
- The Screening Tool for Autism in Two-Year-Olds (STAT)
 - for children between 24 and 36 months of age



Screening Tools

- Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)
 - Formerly known as the Autism Screening Questionnaire
- Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS)
- Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)
- Children's Social Behavior Questionnaire
- Developmental Behavior Checklist – Autism screening Algorithm
- Autism Behavior Checklist

Diagnostic Assessment Tools

- Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales – Developmental Profile
 - 3-step process:
 - Infant-toddler checklist
 - Caregiver questionnaire
 - Behavior sample

Diagnostic Assessment Tools

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
 - 4 modules
 - Takes 45 min to over 1 hour
 - Requires training and certification to use



Diagnostic Assessment Tools

- Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R)
 - is a structured interview used for diagnosing autism and planning treatment
 - Published by WPS
 - Takes up to 3+ hours
 - Must be trained and certified



A PARENT'S STORY

Summary

- Pervasive Developmental Disorders diagnostic criteria
 - For autistic disorder, impairment in:
 - Communication,
 - Social-interaction, and
 - Restricted, repetitive behavior

Summary

- Early warning signs of autism
 - Parental concern
 - Limited or No babbling by 12 months
 - No gesturing (pointing, waving bye-bye) by 12 months
 - No responding to name by 12 months
 - Unusual play (e.g., string, sticks, spinning wheels of car)
 - Overly focused on parts of objects, toys
 - By 18 months, not engaging in simple pretend play, like feeding a doll or stuffed animal